

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9, with the following:

The invention relates to nucleic acids comprising the nucleic acid sequence of the mutated HIV-1 *gag/pol* gene shown in Figure 1 (~~SEQUENCE ID NO:1~~) (SEQ ID NO:1) and vectors and vector systems comprising these nucleic acids.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 7, with the following:

Fig. 1. DNA sequence of a mutated HIV-1 *gag/pol* molecular clone (~~SEQUENCE ID NO:1~~) (SEQ ID NO:1). The *gagpol* terminator is located at positions 4305-4397 of ~~SEQUENCE ID NO:1~~ SEQ ID NO:1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 10, with the following:

Fig. 2. Comparison of the sequence of the ~~wild-type~~ wild-type (SEQ ID NO:2) and mutated (SEQ ID NO:3) *pol* region in pCMVgagpolBNkan. Position #1 in the figure is position 2641 in plasmid pCMVgagpolBNkan. The comparison starts at position 1872 from the ~~gag~~ *gag* initiator ATG.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 14, with the following:

Fig. 3. DNA sequence of a mutated SIV *gag* molecular clone (SIVgagDX) (SEQ ID NO:4).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 16, with the following:

Fig. 4. Comparison of the mutated SIV *gag* DNA sequence in SIVgagDX with the wild type SIV sequence from Simian (macaque) immunodeficiency virus isolate 239, clone lambda siv 239-1 (GenBank accession No. M33262). Consensus = SEQ ID NO:5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5, with the following:

Fig. 9. DNA sequence of packaging construct pCMVgagpolBNkan (SEQ ID NO:6). Translation of complementary strand positions 7814-7002 = SEQ ID NO:7.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6, with the following:

Fig. 10. DNA sequence of transfer construct 1: pmBCwCNluci (SEQ ID NO:8).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 7, with the following:

Fig. 11. DNA sequence of transfer construct [[1]] 2: pmBCmCNluci (SEQ ID NO:9).

~~Figure 12:~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 9, with the following:

Fig. 12. Nucleotide sequence of the region BssHII (711) to ClaI (830) in wild-type HIV-1 molecular clones HXB2 (SEQ ID NO:12) and NL4-3 (SEQ IOD NO:13), and in the transfer constructs. The translation initiator signal for Gag protein (ATG) is underlined. pmBCwCNluci and pmBCmCNluci (transfer constructs 1 and 2) contain the sequence mBCwCN (SEQ ID NO:10). Transfer construct 3 contains the sequence m2BCwCN (SEQ ID NO:11). In contrast to the sequence mBCwCN, m2BCwCN has different mutations at the 5' splice site region and has an intact Gag ATG. Consensus = SEQ ID NO:14).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31, with the following:

Fig. 17. DNA sequence of the SIV envelope encoding vector CMVkan/R-R-SIVgp160CTE (SEQ ID NO:15) containing a mutated SIV env gene (translation = SEQ ID NO:16). Translation of complementary strand positions 6547-5732 = SEQ ID NO:17. Coding region for SEQ ID NO:16 = SEQ ID NO:18. Coding region for SEQ ID NO:17 = SEQ ID NO:19.

Please cancel the present "SEQUENCE LISTING", pages 1-28, submitted August 19, 2003, and insert therefor the accompanying paper copy of the Substitute Sequence Listing, page numbers 1 to 22, at the end of the application.